

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 463

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Shirley C. Raines, President of the University of Memphis on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is proper that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to recognize those talented and determined individuals who have dedicated their lives to the pursuit of excellence in all their endeavors and, in doing so, have served as an inspiration to those around them; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Dr. Shirley C. Raines, who became the 11th president of the University of Memphis on July 1, 2001, and the first woman to hold the presidency of the University which was founded in 1912; and

WHEREAS, a native of Bells, Tennessee, Shirley C. Raines earned her Doctorate in Education and her Master of Science degree from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Her Bachelor of Science degree is from the University of Tennessee at Martin, and she also completed the Management Development Program from the Harvard Graduate School of Education; and

WHEREAS, prior to her appointment at the University of Memphis, Dr. Raines was Vice Chancellor for Academic Services and Dean of the College of Education at the University of Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, during the years of Dr. Raines' tenure at the University of Memphis, the following building projects have been completed: a new student center, Honors residence hall, the FedEx Institute of Technology, the Kemmons Wilson School of Hospitality and Resort Management, the Student Activities Plaza and fountain, the clock tower, University Services Building with new bookstore, the Athletic Training Facility, and the softball stadium; and

WHEREAS, during Dr. Raines' presidency, the University of Memphis has also completed renovation of the baseball stadium, additions to the Carpenter Student Housing Complex, the renovation of the former Millington Naval Hospital, the renovation of Wilder Tower, which is devoted to student services, and the relocation of the Law School to the historic downtown location on the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, described in *The Commercial Appeal* as “powerful, prepared and personable,” she has become known for her effective work in building productive partnerships on and off the campus. This emphasis has enabled the University to realize significant increases in annual giving to the University; and

WHEREAS, establishment of the University of Memphis Research Foundation along with the University's focus on engaged scholarship in the community has facilitated an increase of sponsored research grants and contract awards by almost 100 percent since the beginning of Dr. Raines' tenure in 2001; and

WHEREAS, major focus areas of her work with students include an increased emphasis on the retention of students, expansion of the University's Honors and Emerging Leaders programs, the establishment of a guaranteed internship program for qualified students, living learning residential and curricular learning communities throughout campus; and

WHEREAS, a stalwart fan of the Memphis Tigers, while on the NCAA Board of Directors, Dr. Raines chaired the NCAA Presidential Task Force Oversight and Monitoring Group; she currently serves on the Board of Directors of C-USA; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, while at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, she received the Distinguished Faculty Member award and has received two research awards from the Eastern Educational Research Association; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Raines is the author of fourteen books and numerous journal articles, and is widely regarded as an expert in teacher education and early childhood education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Raines is a frequent speaker at community events and has served as a keynote speaker at Harvard's Institute for Educational Management and their Seminar for New Presidents; and

WHEREAS, as a community leader, Dr. Raines serves as a past chair of the Memphis Regional Chamber of Commerce and on the board of directors of several non-profit organizations, including Memphis Tomorrow, local PBS station WKNO, and the Higher Education Division of United Way; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Raines enjoys the love and support of her husband, Dr. Robert J. Canady; they are the proud parents of four adult children and the beloved grandparents of five treasured grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to grasp this opportunity to extend its gratitude and recognition to Dr. Shirley C. Raines for her distinguished service to the University of Memphis and the students under her charge; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Dr. Shirley C. Raines upon her retirement, commend her on her exemplary service as President of the University of Memphis, and offer our fondest wishes for her every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.